

submit that dependent claims 7-10 are still patentable over Chern and Laxman, as submitted above.

Claims 15, 18, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chern in view of Laxman, in further view of Miles (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,597). Applicants submit, however, that Miles does not affect the patentability of independent claim 11. Because claims 15, 18, and 19 depend directly from claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 15, 18, and 19 are also patentable over Chern in view of Laxman, in further view of Miles. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

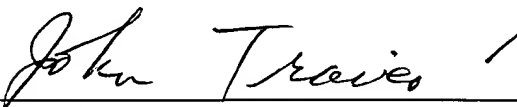
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite any further prosecution of the present application. No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any fees or fee deficiencies under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and § 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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